



200th
Anniversary
Corner-stone Laying

1761
.
1961


The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA



The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Preface

HE Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity is the oldest church in the oldest inland city in the United States. A church which came into being before the last of the "Thirteen Colonies" was established, whose present building antedates the American Revolution, and whose present congregation is one of the more spiritually vigorous congregations in America deserves to have its story told. This booklet contains that story.

Four years ago, the Committee on Historical Documents and Objects in Trinity was appointed. A score of men have given days to research, translation and cataloguing in our rich mine of materials. Two men deserve particular mention: long-time Vestryman, George W. Leonard, for more than four years of intermittent labor and George L. Heiges, one-time president, Lancaster County Historical Society, for the "Historical Chronology" which appears in this booklet. As a former professor of history at Gettysburg College, I have examined appreciatively their voluminous research and counted on it heavily for my "Historical Sketch of Holy Trinity."

Characteristic of the new spirit and fresh temper of mind in Trinity in 1961 is the relationship of the two "researchers" with our congregation. Mr. Leonard has been a confirmed member for fifty-eight years; Mr. Heiges, a member for one year. Further, Mr. Heiges has chaired the committee responsible for guiding Trinity through this 200th anniversary celebration: Trustees Willis W. Shenk, Albert W. Seitz, C. Raymond Bolbach; Church School Superintendent, Mrs. Ruth Grigg Horting; and Messrs. Melvin J. Evans, E. Melvin Hubley, and George W. Leonard.

The historian likes to research in leisure and write with unhurried hand, polishing each paragraph for style and clarity. The unbroken press of parish responsibilities and commitments beyond the parish have not allowed me any leisure for writing the historical sketch and editing the chronology. Where errors of fact occur, the reader will contribute to the book length history projected for 1966 by offering correction and citing his documentary sources. Meanwhile, Messrs. Heiges and Leonard and I hope the reader enjoys this bit of history as much as we have enjoyed researching, editing and writing it.

The Second Sunday after Easter
Anno Domini, 1961

Wallace E. Fisher

Historical Sketch of Holy Trinity Church

Several years before the birth of George Washington and three and a half decades before Patrick Henry rose boldly in the Virginia House of Burgesses to make his famous "liberty or death" speech, the Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity was functioning as an established congregation in the village of Lancaster, then a frontier outpost of the British Empire. The earliest ministerial act in the congregation's records is dated 1729. Formal organization of the congregation was accomplished the following year, making Trinity *the oldest congregation in the oldest inland city of the United States*.

A decade before Thomas Jefferson and John Adams struggled with the content and format of our Declaration of Independence the nave of Trinity's present church building was dedicated (1766) with the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, officiating. At that time the congregation numbered seven hundred communing members and the rectangular building which was constructed, presently the nave of the church, measured sixty by eighty feet with the axis running east and west. The pulpit was centered on the east wall of the church, the other three walls carrying the gallery.

In the same year that Washington, Hamilton and other leading men in America assembled at Annapolis, Maryland, to consider the advisability of scrapping the Articles of Confederation in the interest of stronger federal government (1785), the present tower and steeple of Trinity was begun. This magnificent piece of architecture, reaching 195 feet toward heaven and resting firmly on foundations seven feet thick and in places seventeen feet deep, was completed in the same year that George Washington began his second term as President of the United States (1794). Standing on the four corners of the tower were the graciously carved wooden statues of the four evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The statues, presumed to be the work of the early American sculptor, William Rush, stood for one hundred and fifty-four years until they were removed in 1948 and placed in the narthex of the present church for preservation. Duplicates of the statues were fashioned and placed on the four corners of the tower in that same year.

Both the church and its worship services were enhanced in 1771 by the placement of an organ constructed by David Tannenberg, renowned colonial organ builder. In a letter written by a British prisoner of war

(American Revolution), there is the suggestion that Trinity's organ was the largest in America. Certainly, it was one of the most remarkably constructed. Much of the original case remains as a cherished possession and houses in part the present four manual Casavant organ which was built in 1923. The Vestry, at its March, 1961, meeting, authorized the replacement of the out-worn Casavant organ by a four manual Moller organ at the cost of \$80,000. The present organ case will be kept intact.

A few years before the Dred Scot decision and only a year before Stephen A. Douglas enunciated his principle of "popular sovereignty" (1853), the apse and the east and west vestibules were added to the church. The brick matched the original brick of the church and tower because the builders tore down the double brick wall which had surrounded the church property since colonial days and used these materials for the additions to the church building. It was during this period of rebuilding that the interior setting of the church was reoriented with a north-south axis, the pulpit being centered on the north end of the church and the galleries running east, south and west (present orientation).

A decade after Mr. Lincoln was laid to rest and in the year of the Hayes-Tilden presidential dispute (1876), Trinity Church laid the cornerstone for its first parish house, called in that day and until its demolition in the summer of 1953, the "Chapel". Preceding the old "Chapel" which stood on South Duke Street directly south of the church building were two different education units, the first having been constructed as a school-house around the mid-18th century, and the second as a "Sunday School" building constructed early in the 19th century. The "Chapel" which was constructed in 1876 provided for church school facilities, two office units, a large assembly room, several individual rooms for organizations and, at one time, a small chapel with an organ. Serving four generations of Trinityites and undergoing several renovations, the old "Chapel" was one of the first parish houses to be built by a Lutheran Church in America.

While the history of Christian education and particular buildings is rooted in more than two centuries of unbroken labors, the specific beginnings of the present parish house (dedicated, January, 1955), stem from the strong ministry of the Rev. Dr. Aden B. MacIntosh, pastor, 1921-1940. Having led the congregation in a \$60,000 renovation of the historic church in 1923, including the installation of the Casavant organ, Doctor MacIntosh initiated the movement for a modern parish house to replace the antiquated "Chapel".

Because of the bounteous generosity of two Christian families, the Fondersmiths and the Rengiers, and a substantial gift by Mrs. William Z. Sener, Trinity Church was ready to build its parish house in 1932, having then at hand \$210,000. The architect had been approved, the Vestry had acted, the building contract had been let, temporary quarters for the Sunday Church School had been obtained and the last service in the old "Chapel" had been conducted when the nation's mounting financial storm swept into Lancaster tying up the funds and preventing the work from going forward. The local banks closed on March 12, 1932, impounding all monies and postponing the project indefinitely. Doctor MacIntosh held firmly to his dream and kept it before the congregation, but the economic limitations of the 1930's proved to be insurmountable. It was his sharpest disappointment that his dream could not be realized. To Doctor MacIntosh, the Fondersmiths, the Rengiers and the Seners, the present generation in Trinity Church owes an immeasurable debt. When at last the parish house went into construction in 1953, the Vestry had \$300,000 at hand from the monies recovered, subsequent interest payments and another bequest received during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. Henry H. Bagger, pastor, 1940-1952.

But no definite agreement concerning the fact, size or structure of the parish house had been arrived at during the decade of the 1940's. It was not until 1952 that the Vestry determined that a congregational appeal for an additional \$150,000 was necessary to construct an adequate parish house. While no plan for a particular building had been endorsed from 1932 to 1952, one major obstacle in building had been hurdled successfully. In 1949, the Vestry, under Doctor Bagger's guidance, gained approval from the Lancaster County Court to disinter the remains that had been buried in the old cemetery behind and beneath the "Chapel". The task was accomplished and the remains were placed in wooden boxes and stored in the vault of Mr. C. Abram Snyder, a local funeral director. The intention at that time was to re-establish a memorial cemetery at the rear of the parish house at whatever time it would be constructed. Fresh thinking on the matter produced, in due time, a parking lot where the old cemetery had been and a beautiful memorial wall located on the east side of the church where the bodily remains were reinterred. A centrally placed marble plaque, together with various gravestones, mark permanently the reinterments and solved the problem of proper care for a cemetery. The memorial wall constituted part of the total building project.

The Vestry acted on June 2, 1952, to go forward with its congregational appeal in the early winter of that year. Significantly, this action was taken without benefit of pastoral leadership, Doctor Bagger having submitted his resignation in May, 1952, to accept the presidency of Mt. Airy Seminary. Indeed, the complex matter of the parish house was one of a half-dozen sharp challenges which Trinity's Vestry laid before the Rev. Wallace E. Fisher in calling him from "College Church", Gettysburg, to Trinity's pulpit in July, 1952. However, the most pressing claim laid before him by the Vestry was the static nature of the congregation itself. And this challenge was dramatically plain by December 31, 1952! The \$150,000 appeal for the new parish house, generously subscribed by the Vestry and several hundred workers, fell short of the goal by a third in the congregation whose response was negligible. Both Vestry and Pastor were made aware sharply and in depth that something more radical than a new building would be needed to stir the placid congregation whose younger families were skeptical of Trinity's future as a downtown congregation and whose older families showed little disposition to disturb the church's dignified *status quo* outlook. The ensuing two years were a complex of faith and fear, action and reaction, understanding and misunderstanding, confidence and suspicion, hope and despair; yet within that period of tension and conflict it pleased almighty God to create a fresh congregational temper of mind which has been maturing steadily and excitingly since 1955.

In February, 1953, a new set of plans was brought forward which revised completely both the exterior and the interior of the proposed building and its setting. These fundamental changes were called for by the different emphases in program which was being developed. The architect, Mr. Harold E. Wagoner, responding admirably to the new program which was being outlined, presented plans which the Vestry approved unanimously in the spring of 1953. In August of that year the "Chapel" was razed and D. S. Warfel Associates received the contract to construct the new parish house. Ground was broken in September, 1953, the cornerstone was laid in January, 1954, the congregational tour of the partially constructed building was conducted the following September, 1954, the building was occupied on December 12, 1954, and was dedicated on January 2, 1955, the Secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America, the Rev. F. Eppling Reinertz delivering the dedicatory address. The total cost of the completed building together with furnishings, landscaping, parking lot, memorial wall, demolition of the old "Chapel" and

subsequent interior additions for a steadily enlarging staff and program approximate \$500,000. The parish house is in colonial design fitting admirably into the architectural pattern dictated by beautiful, historic Trinity Church. Fronting on South Duke Street it is set forty feet from the curb line and fourteen feet south from Mifflin Street. Thus, an unobstructed view of the front of the church building is provided (the old "Chapel" having obstructed this grand view for 75 years).

Parking facilities for sixty cars are provided at the rear of the parish house. The building, comprising 468,000 cubic feet, houses all the educational facilities for the church schools, an auditorium seating 500 (Fondersmith Auditorium), a beautiful colonial chapel seating 120 (The Rev. Richard Courtney Rengier Chapel), a social lounge, a youth room and snack kitchen, a separate music department, a large recreation room which doubles in classroom use, a suite of six offices on the main floor, a church school office on the second floor, a first aid room, a vault for historical records and a number of secondary facilities. Actually, this significant project in the life of the congregation required a quarter of a century and a good part of three pastorates!

Twice during the 20th century Trinity Church has undergone thorough and thrilling renovations, as it did twice during the 19th century. The first was accomplished under the leadership of Doctor MacIntosh (cf. above). Late in the pastorate of Doctor Bagger the second renovation was accomplished. Because of this meticulous, extensive renovation program, the present church offers the worshiper a breath-taking experience in ecclesiastical beauty and recovers with historical accuracy the colonial flavor of the original church. Much was done also in the way of necessary exterior renovation, the most significant accomplishment being the replacement of the statues on the tower and the preservation of the original statues, now standing in the narthex. Doctor Bagger also led the congregation in the abolition of pew rents in 1946, a necessary change which was appreciated especially during the 1950's.

Trinity Church, rich in both religious and secular history, takes quiet pride in the way her life has been enmeshed with persons of real stature: Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America; Gotthilf Henry Ernst Muhlenberg, pastor, 1780-1815, eminent American botanist and first president of Franklin College (later Franklin and Marshall College); Thomas Wharton, president of the Supreme Executive Council of "Revolutionary Pennsylvania"; Thomas Mifflin, Pennsylvania's first

governor; and Adam Simon Kuhn, distinguished American patriot. The Muhlenbergs are buried in Woodward Hill Cemetery and Wharton, Mifflin and Kuhn are buried beneath Trinity's west wall. The congregation has the added distinction of antedating organized Lutheranism in America and of being one of the founding congregations of the first Synod (Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States) from which has grown in one way and another the present United Lutheran Church in America.

In addition to the Muhlenbergs who occupied Trinity's pulpit at various times as stated preacher, supply pastor or full-time pastor, there has been a long line of distinguished clergymen who served the congregation: Stoever, Handschuh, Helmuth (leaders in colonial Lutheranism), Endress, Baker, Greenwald, Fry (uncle of Franklin Clark Fry), Whitteker (resigned to accept the presidency of the Chicago Lutheran Seminary in 1920), MacIntosh, and Bagger (currently president, Philadelphia Lutheran Seminary). While the senior pastors of Trinity have had a long succession of assistants in the persons of ordained ministers, deaconesses and parish workers, two stand out for extended and creative service: Miss Rachael V. Crigler, parish worker, 1928–1953, and the Rev. R. Ray Evelan, who came first to Trinity as an assistant pastor in June, 1954. Nor should the name of Doctor Harry A. Sykes be omitted from this historical survey; his strong ministry of music was contributory throughout the community and the Lutheran church at large.

Across two and a quarter centuries the congregation sent thirteen men into the Christian ministry, two young women into the diaconate and one young woman into foreign mission work. Two of these full-time Christian workers, Pauline Whitteker and Ralph W. Bagger, came from the homes of pastors in Trinity Church. Since 1953, three mature men in their thirties have entered into counseling relationships concerning the Christian ministry as a vocation. They were dissuaded for want of academic background or emotional resilience; all three are serving effectively as lay ministers in Trinity. Presently, four teenagers, spiritually mature, emotionally healthy, and intellectually competent, are in counseling relationships with the vocation of the ministry in serious view.

It is gratifying to this Christian congregation that the 200th Anniversary of the laying of Trinity's cornerstone reflects nothing of the dead hand of cold tradition but rather the warm, vigorous hand of traditions which pulsate with life. While "Old Trinity" had never skidded into oblivion in any decade of her two hundred and thirty year history and had experi-

enced several seasons of particular spiritual vigor, the first half of the 20th century depicts a church straining to hold her own at the heart of a country town in process of becoming a sprawling metropolitan area. The printed publications since 1900 present the growing concern of the clergy and some vestrymen over a static church in an emerging dynamic urban center. The pressure of historical reality, fifty years of clerical critiques and secondary solutions, courageous vision among a handful of vestrymen, fresh clerical leadership with bold teaching on the mission of the Church and unprecedented policies and practices in staffing, teaching, counseling and administration constitute several of the new channels through which the Holy Spirit gained a bolder confrontation of some eight hundred indifferent, skeptical or dispirited people. Most of these responded in worship, study, stewardship and evangelism: an old church at the heart of a throbbing, surging metropolitan community was born again! The decade, 1951-1961, will stand as "the fabulous fifties" in Trinity's long, glowing history.

The Sunday congregations mounted steadily and unspectacularly year after year from an average attendance of 300 to one of 1100. The Friday Noonday services, inaugurated on a weekly basis in the winter of 1960, were climbing steadily beyond the 200 average and giving promise of a vigorous witness through a weekday service in a downtown church. The evangelistic thrust of the congregation grew mightier by the year: 1300 new members were received and, except in rare cases of committed Lutherans, all came through adult classes of instruction. The communicants' list increased from 1018 to 1725, a pace matched by few mission congregations in suburban areas; the benevolence giving surged from \$12,000. to \$105,000. (Trinity has a stake in nineteen foreign and home missionaries); current giving climbed from \$30,000. to \$100,000. A staff of eight full-time (three ordained clergy) and five part-time church workers was created to meet emerging and newly defined needs; a counseling center (700 appointments annually) was established; Muhlenberg's historic constitution was amended; a rotating Vestry in fact came into being; a youth canteen was established; the United Lutheran Church Women and the United Lutheran Church Men were organized; the Sunday Church School was recast so that the present teaching patterns actually reflect the Lutheran doctrine of the Word and the adult classes gave way in 1961 to adult electives; adult Bible study hours and biblical and doctrinal seminars were established on various Sunday evenings for the more mature Christians. One hundred and forty laymen, after six years of congrega-

tional preparation, took over magnificently the undershepherding of the whole membership; a scholarship fund was created; a homemaker service was established; and scores of other tasks were tended to!

Materially, the congregation demolished the old parish house and produced the new parish house, parking lot, memorial wall and landscaping. By 1958 the Vestry was examining adjoining properties with a view to future expansion. One property on Vine Street was purchased and ordered demolished to create another exit for the crowded parking lot; an additional \$40,000 from "excess" current giving was expended for additional offices, property, a new boiler, an automatic fire detection system in the historic church, property demolition, and a score of lesser housekeeping tasks. In March, 1961, the Vestry authorized the replacement of the thirty-eight year old Casavant organ with a four manual Moller organ at a cost not to exceed \$80,000.

Hardest to define, yet essential to point up in a serious history of a Christian institution, are the evidences that a particular congregation in a particular church building is more than a social club, more than a community of persons held together simply by cultural homogeneity. Many tangible evidences can be cited accurately but only partially evaluated: a ninefold increase in benevolent giving contrasted with a threefold increase in current giving; a counseling center crowded by complex human needs and working cooperatively with other healing disciplines and healing agencies in the community; a capacity to win one-third of its new members from an eight block surrounding area; a youth canteen that reaches more than 400 teenagers of whom 65% are in the church's immediate area; the emergence of a "new congregation" that is strikingly heterogeneous in culture, economic strength, and educational background; a public policy of openness to persons of all races who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour; a stewardship of money which depends on no one person or any small group of persons but incorporates 1550 contributors, 800 of whom give evidence of scriptural motivation; an established pattern of family worship on Sundays; a widening pattern of daily family devotions; extended clerical and lay representation on every responsible community agency and careful attention to and participation in local, state and federal government. Most significant is the fact that Trinity's congregation expects its pulpit to bring individuals, families, church, community, and culture under the searing judgment and healing grace of God's whole Word and to share in this ministry of conflict and creativity. There is a new

eagerness abroad in Trinity to demonstrate that those who are “justified by faith” are becoming new persons who strive to make a better society for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Across two and a third centuries hundreds have planted, thousands have watered and God has given the increase! As always, the future belongs to Him and those who hear and do His commandments.

April, 1961

W. E. F.



“Now Thank We All Our God”

A Chronological History of Trinity

1710

The first white settlement in present Lancaster County was made by Swiss Mennonites.

A Swedish Lutheran missionary (possibly Jonas Auren) preached at the Indian village of Conestoga (now in Manor Township).

1729

June 9 Lancaster County was organized and named at Postlewaite's Tavern in Conestoga Township.

November 29 First Lutheran baptisms were recorded.

1730

February 17 The county seat of the new county was established at Hickorytown. James Hamilton laid out the town of Lancaster at the county seat.

The Lutherans of Lancaster under the leadership of John Christian Schultze organized Trinity congregation.

James Hamilton allocated lots 49, 50, 51 and part of 48 to the Lutheran congregation.

The first burial, that of a child, was recorded in this year.

1733

The Reverend John Casper Stoever, Jr., began his ministry in Lancaster. On the 18th Sunday after Trinity he administered the Lord's Supper to 149 communicants.

1734

A small stone church with bell and steeple and a schoolhouse were erected on the southeast corner of Duke Street and an alley (later named Mifflin). The contract for the building of the church bears the names of Frederick Ullman, master mason, and Christoph Trenkel, Sebastian Graf, Matthias Jung, Johannes Koch, vestrymen.

1736

November 7 John Casper Stoever, Jr., provisional pastor, received a call to the full pastorate of the congregation. He continued in the office until 1739.

1738

October 28 The stone church was consecrated by Pastor Stoever "with a prayer and the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Holy Sacrament, and dedicated to the glory of God and for the use of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation. God grant that it may serve its intended service, so that our Savior may not have cause to lament over Lancaster as he did over Jerusalem".

1739-1740

The Reverend John Dylander, rector of Glorei Dei Swedish Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, ministered to the congregation.

1742

James Hamilton granted to the congregation the lots which he had allocated to them, the cost being only the ground rents "to be paid to said James Hamilton and his heirs forever hereafter".

May 1 Lancaster was organized as a borough by a charter granted in the name of George the Second of England.

November 25 The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived in Pennsylvania to assume the pastorate of three congregations in the Philadelphia area.

1743

The Reverend Valentine Kraft, a wandering German preacher, served the congregation occasionally.

1744

In response to a request, the Swedish Church authorities sent the Reverend Lorentz T. Nyberg to Lancaster as pastor.

1745

Pastor Nyberg proved to be an able preacher but he caused a ferment in the congregation through his espousal of Moravian doctrines.

1746

January 31 The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg and The Rev. Peter Brunnholtz of the Germantown congregation arrived in Lancaster to mediate the violent quarrel which developed because of The Rev. Mr. Nyberg's defection.

February 1-9 The church rift reached the county court where a decision was rendered against Nyberg and his adherents. The church was padlocked and Muhlenberg preached twice in the home of Dr. Adam Simon Kuhn and once in the Court House.

April The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg again visited Lancaster and preached in the church, at which time he used Luke 13:6-9 as his text.

1747

The Rev. Gabriel Naesman, pastor of Glorei Dei Church, Philadelphia, and The Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz of Tulpehocken served intermittently.

June 21 The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg preached in Lancaster and catechised the young people. He was asked by the church council to assume the responsibility of the congregation.

1748

April 22 In response to an appeal to the Lutheran Church in Europe for a pastor, The Rev. John Frederick Handshuh arrived, accompanied by Pastors Muhlenberg and Brunnholtz. Pastor Handshuh began his ministry "for only six months on trial" and remained until 1751.

August 4 Pastor Handshuh administered Communion to 185 persons.

August 15 In Saint Michael's Church, Philadelphia, The Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania was organized. Lancaster was represented by Pastor Handshuh, Dr. Adam Simon Kuhn, Christopher Trenkel, Ludwig Stein, Michael Gross, Bernard Hubley and Michael Schreyak. In late fall of this year, The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg sent his able assistant, Jacob Loeser, to Lancaster to be the schoolmaster of the church school which under Pastor Handshuh's direction became a school for the community. Jacob Loeser continued in the post of schoolmaster and as organist until his death in 1793. Under church auspices, the school continued until the introduction of the Common School System.

1749

June 4-5 The Pennsylvania Ministerium met in Trinity Church for its second convention. The Rev. Mr. Muhlenberg preached in German on Sunday morning and "in the evening in English for the benefit of the English who had no preacher".

1750

Easter The records indicate 243 communicants.

1751-1752

The congregation was supplied by The Rev. Tobias Wagner, The Rev. John T. Engelund and The Rev. Henry Wortman.

In 1751 a new church schoolhouse was erected.

1753

March In response to an appeal made to the Consistory of Stuttgart, The Reverend John Siegfried Gerock arrived in Lancaster to begin his work as pastor of Trinity Church. He served until 1767.

1761

January The trustees purchased a lot from Christopher Franciscus and another from John Eppley which provided sufficient land on the northeast corner of Duke and Mifflin Streets upon which to build a new church. The trustees at this time were Adam Simon Kuhn, Bernhard Hubley and Frederick Yeiser.

Decision was made to call the church "The Holy Trinity Church".

May 17 The fourteenth convention of The Ministerium of Pennsylvania met in Trinity Church with The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg presiding.

May 18 Monday In the morning the members of Synod repaired to the home of Pastor Gerock, where the pastor and all the officers of the church signed an

historical document to be deposited in the cornerstone. This document related the whole previous history of the congregation in detail, and then declared that the sacred edifice which the cornerstone was intended to sustain, should be called "The Church of the Holy Trinity" and be consecrated solely to the cause of Evangelical truth, as that truth is taught by the apostles and prophets and set forth in the pure, unaltered Augsburg Confession.

"At ten o'clock the members of Synod and others went in procession to the old church, and Rev. Muhlenberg delivered a discourse on the 60th chapter of Isaiah; after the service all proceeded to the immediate vicinity of the cornerstone. The foundation of the new building had already been constructed, and the walls had been raised to a height of several feet. The cornerstone was also ready, exhibiting a cavity in the centre, but did not yet occupy its appointed place. The whole assembly, standing in a devout attitude, united in singing several stanzas of the favorite German church hymn, beginning with the words "Sey Lob un Ehr' dem hoechsten Gut." (All praise and thanks to God most High). Then Pastor Gerock read aloud the historical document, transferred it to a small box, and deposited the whole in the cornerstone. After this act the stone itself was reverently removed to its proper place, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and firmly secured. Dr. Wrangel, Provost of the Swedish churches, now came forward and with a mallet struck the stone thrice, and offered a short prayer. Every clerical and lay member of the Synod, and every church officer in regular succession approached the stone, raised the mallet and by distinct strokes on the stone, indicated that his heart prayed for the completion and perpetuity of the building. Again did the vast assembly sing to God's praise one of our old and magnificent hymns, and then each spectator devoutly retired, carrying the blessing of God with him."

1762

August 11–27 During this period a treaty with the Indians was being consummated at Lancaster, and on August 24 the commissioners, among them James Wright of Wright's Ferry and Governor James Hamilton together with the Indian chiefs in attendance "assembled in the old Lutheran Church where a session was held".

1763

For this year Pastor Gerock reported to Synod the baptism of nearly 280 children for Lancaster and Beaver Creek (subsequently became St. Michael's Church, Strasburg). It has been estimated that the communicant membership of Trinity in this period ranged from 700 to 1,000.

1766

May 4 Sunday This was the day of dedication for the people of The Church of the Holy Trinity. At nine o'clock, the preachers and others assembled at the schoolhouse and marched to the new church for the exercises. The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg opened the service and preached the morning sermon, based on Exodus 20:24, after which Pastor Gerock, assisted by the ministers present, consecrated the edifice. Pastor Gerock preached in the afternoon on John 13:34–35, while in the evening Rector Thomas Barton of the Episcopal Church delivered a sermon. Mr. Henry William Stiegel, the celebrated glassmaker, directed the choir during the services of the day.

The following were the church officers at the time of the dedication: Elders and Trustees—Adam Kuhn, Michael Gross, Bernhard Hubley, Gerhard Brenner, Ludwig Laumann, Michael Hubley; Deacons—Christian Werth, Caspar Singer, Carl Klug, Veit Mueller.

At the time of building, two sandstone tablets bearing the name of the church and the date of its foundation, the one in Latin, and the other in German, were placed high in the wall of the church on the Duke Street side. They remain to-day in their original positions.

1767

June 3 Provost Wrangel of the Swedish Lutheran Church preached twice in Holy Trinity Church, the pulpit being vacant.

June 24–July 9 The Rev. Henry M. Muhlenberg spent this time in Lancaster meeting with the council, visiting members, baptizing children, preaching and teaching. Before the end of his visit, he received authorization to request the authorities in Halle, Germany, that they send a pastor to Lancaster.

1768

During this year and part of 1769, the congregation was served by The Rev. Mr. Muhlenberg, Christian Emanuel Schultze of Tulpehocken and others sent by Muhlenberg.

April 7–25 Muhlenberg again rendered vital service to Trinity Church. On Sunday, April 10, he preached from John 14:18 and on Sunday, April 17, on John 10:12–16. Sunday, April 24, in a service which lasted from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., he served Communion to 385 persons. At this time, he transcribed in the church record book “a description of the laying of the foundation stones of Holy Trinity in 1761 and of the solemn dedication of the same in 1766”.

1769

April 30 The Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg introduced to Trinity congregation the Rev. Just Henry Christian Helmuth, recently arrived from Europe, who preached on Ezekiel 18:35 “in an orderly, clear, attractive, impressive and edifying fashion for which God be praised”.

May 21 Muhlenberg preached “on the important text John 3:1” after which Trinity congregation voted to extend a call to the Reverend Mr. Helmuth, who accepted and began his ministry here which continued until 1779.

1770

June George Whitefield, the eloquent Calvinist missionary, preached in Trinity Church.

1771

David Tanneberger, celebrated organ builder of Lititz, fashioned a fine instrument for Trinity Church. The original case of the Tanneberger organ constitutes the central section of the present organ facade.

1772

September 27-29 The Ministerium of Pennsylvania convened in Trinity's school-house for its twenty-fifth convention. Present was the Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg with two of his ministerial sons, Henry Ernest and Frederick Augustus. At the opening service the elder Muhlenberg spoke on Matthew 10:32.

1773

Pastor Helmuth is authority for the statement that in this year, the church, capable of accommodating 1500 persons, was too small, as there were 50 seats less than were necessary for the membership.

From Melchoir Snider the trustees purchased a stone house on North Duke Street (present No. 33) for a parsonage. Until 1853, this house continued to be home to the pastors of Trinity Church.

1777

September 27 Continental Congress in flight from the British and enroute to York held a session in the Lancaster County Court House.

1778

May 24 President Thomas Wharton, Jr., of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, then in session in Lancaster, was buried in Trinity Church, he having died suddenly on the 23rd. "The funeral was conducted with great decorum, and the military in particular, had been very attentive to pay the honors due to His Excellency's character and station." The body of President Wharton was interred beneath the brick floor in front of the old pulpit and altar on the west side of the church.

1779

Following the resignation of Pastor Helmuth in the spring, the congregation was ministered to at times by The Rev. Mr. Schultze of Tulpehocken and The Rev. John Christopher Hardwick, whose ministerial work was largely in New York State.

1780

January 1 Reverend Gotthilf Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, son of the patriarch, preached in Trinity Church and on the same day accepted a call as pastor.

March 9 Rev. G. H. E. Muhlenberg arrived in Lancaster and began his lengthy pastorate of thirty-five years.

1784

June 7-8 Once again the Ministerium of Pennsylvania met in Trinity Church for its thirty-seventh convention, with Pastor Schultze of Tulpehocken as President and Pastor Muhlenberg in the secretary's chair.

Pastor Muhlenberg reported 615 communicants for the year.

1785

In the fall the foundations of the present church tower were laid, its walls seven feet thick and seventeen feet deep. Frederick Mann was selected as the carpenter and George Lotman as the mason. A building committee was appointed, consisting of these men: Bernard Hubley, Matthias Schlauch, Jacob Krug, Valentine Breneisen and Melchoir Rudisill.

1787

June 3-5 In order that the Lutheran ministers would be present at the opening of Franklin (later Franklin and Marshall) College, The Ministerium of Pennsylvania convened in Trinity's schoolhouse for its fortieth conclave. The evening services were held in the church.

June 6 A joint project of the Lutheran and Reformed churches, Franklin College was dedicated in Trinity Church on this day. The erudite pastor of Trinity, Henry Ernest Muhlenberg, son of H. M. Muhlenberg, was chosen as the first president of the institution. The elaborate dedication exercises featured a German address by President Muhlenberg on Ephesians 6:4.

March 5 The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania granted a charter to The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity.

October 7 The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, and father of Trinity's pastor, died at his home in Trappe, Montgomery County. He was buried in the nearby cemetery on October 10.

1788

As an evidence of the German language usage in Lancaster, the vestry in this year agreed "that the proceedings of the vestry should be conducted in the German language, until the majority should consent to the introduction of English". Incidentally, Pastor Muhlenberg delivered his sermons in the German language and introduced English at the evening services only near the close of his pastorate.

1791

November 29 Messrs. William Colladay and son, Abraham, master carpenters of Philadelphia, were invited to present "a plan and model" for completing the tower of Trinity Church. Subsequently the vestry entered into a contract with Colladay and Son.

1794

December 8 The building of the church tower, 195 feet high, was completed, even to the large ball (95 gallons capacity) which topped the spire. A striking feature of the tower from that day to the present has been the wooden carved figures of the Evangelists at the base. The original figures which now stand in the narthex of the church have been attributed to the Philadelphia sculptor, William Rush. The bell which had been purchased in 1768 was taken from the old stone church and hung in the new tower. It is still there, no longer in use.

December 9 The old stone church was sold to Michael Gundaker for 30 pounds 5 shillings (approx. \$147.22).

1799

June 6 Lancaster became the temporary capital of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and continued to be the seat of government until October 1812. During those years, the Legislature held sessions in the Court House which stood in the square.

1800

January 22 Funeral services and burial of the Hon. Thomas Mifflin, Governor of the Commonwealth from 1788 until 1799, were held in Trinity Church. The mortal remains of Governor Mifflin were interred in front of the church immediately beneath the tablet which was placed on the church wall by the Commonwealth. Governor Mifflin's final term as governor had expired on December 17, 1799 and he took ill in Lancaster shortly thereafter. Distinguished as a patriot and orator during the Revolution, he was a Major General in the Colonial Army.

1801

June 5 The Hon. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, brother of Pastor Muhlenberg, died on the fourth instant at the age of 51 and this day was buried from Trinity Church with interment in Trinity graveyard. Trained for the ministry, Frederick Muhlenberg left his calling to enter political life and rose to the place of Speaker in the National House of Representatives. At the time of death, he was Receiver General of the Pennsylvania Land Office.

October 3 Jacob Strine was elected to be the teacher of the school as well as song leader and organist at an annual compensation of 30 pounds, ten cords of firewood and an allowance of 10 shillings (\$2.43) per quarter for each pupil.

1804

May Baron Alexander Humboldt, celebrated German scientist, visited Pastor Muhlenberg who by his own research in the natural sciences had attained to a high place as a botanist. Honored by scientific societies in Europe and America, Henry E. Muhlenberg has been aptly called "The Linneaus of America".

1807

Since the erection of the church tower, the congregation had been heavily in debt; in this year the State Assembly granted permission to Trinity Church to conduct a lottery, the purpose being to raise a sum of money which would free the church of debt.

1815

May 23 Pastor Henry Ernest Muhlenberg died at the age of sixty-two. At the funeral service held in Trinity Church, The Rev. Dr. Helmuth preached the sermon and used Hebrews 13:7 as his text. The body of Dr. Muhlenberg was interred in Trinity cemetery.

October The Rev. Christian L. F. Endress was called from Easton to the pastorate of Trinity Church, remaining until death called him in 1827. He began his work in Lancaster at an annual salary of \$1000 and was given permission to preach in the English language at the evening services.

1817

June The brick floor in the church was replaced with one of wood.

1820

October 22 The General Synod of the Lutheran Church was organized at Hagerstown, Maryland, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania being one of the constituting bodies. Dr. Endress translated the proceedings of the convention from German into English.

1823

At the annual convention of the General Synod, the Ministerium of Pennsylvania withdrew and remained apart until 1853.

1825

April 3 Culminating a discussion carried on during three months, the Vestry voted to have alternate English and German preaching at the Sunday morning services.

1826

July 4 Marking the fiftieth anniversary of American Independence, a community service was held in Trinity Church. "An anthem composed for the occasion was sung by the Moravian Choir and the pastor of Trinity Church, Dr. Christian Endress, addressed the gathering which filled the church to overflowing".

1827

April 17 Organized by a group of members of Trinity Church who desired services in which the German language alone would be used, Zion Lutheran Church came into being; on this same day the cornerstone of their church in Vine Street was laid. The congregation was titled "The New High German Evangelical Lutheran Church in the City of Lancaster".

September 30 After a brief illness, Dr. Endress passed from this life. At the obsequies in Trinity Church, the Reverend Dr. H. A. Muhlenberg (son of Henry Ernest M.), Reading, preaching the sermon. He was buried in the church cemetery close by the grave of his predecessor.

April 30 Beginning on this date, the minutes of the Vestry were recorded in English.

1828

January 27 The Rev. John Christopher Baker, called from St. Michael's, Germantown, to Trinity, preached his introductory sermon in German. On February 3 he preached his introductory English sermon. His pastorate in Lancaster continued until 1853.

January 27 The Sunday School of Holy Trinity Church was established.

March 9 The Sunday School opened with an enrollment of 219 girls, 94 boys and 63 teachers.

1834

A Sunday School building was erected, the cost being assumed by the "Sunday School Society".

1845

June 26 Andrew Jackson, ex-president of the nation, died on June 8 and on this day, a procession in memory of the illustrious soldier and statesman moved through the streets of the city to Trinity Church where "an oration on the life, character and public services of General Jackson was delivered by Judge Ellis Lewis", a member of Trinity Church.

1847

May Concerning the language question, a resolution was adopted "that there shall be German services every third Sunday in the morning only".

1850

February 1 The Vestry, having disposed of property on Vine Street, purchased a choice piece of ground on South Queen Street on which to plot a new cemetery. Eventually this became Woodward Hill Cemetery.

February 5 Gas lighting was installed in Trinity Church.

1851

April 28 Another concession was made in favor of the English speaking members when the Vestry resolved "that the morning and evening services be conducted entirely in English and the Sunday afternoon services in the German language".

1852

March 2 A mission Sunday School with 22 members opened on Mulberry Street near Orange Street under the auspices of Trinity Church and directed by J. S. Crumbaugh, principal of the Lancaster High School and a student of theology under Pastor Baker. One year later it had developed into a congregation which was named "St. John's" with J. S. Crumbaugh as its first pastor.

1853

May 22 The Reverend G. F. Krotel, pastor-elect, preached his introductory sermon inaugurating a pastorate of eight years.

April 4 The stone parsonage at Duke and Grant Streets was sold for \$4710 and a new home for the pastor was erected on South Duke Street immediately south of the present Parish House.

Spring The Ministerium of Pennsylvania re-affiliated with the General Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

September 9 Decision having been made to renovate Trinity Church, the last service in the unaltered building of 1766 was held on this Sunday. The narthex was enlarged and the apse added.

1854

While the renovations were being made both inside and outside Holy Trinity, the congregation accepted the invitation of two sister congregations and worshipped in Saint Paul's Reformed Church and the First Presbyterian Church.

May 21 Following the extensive renovations, the church was reconsecrated by Pastor Krotel assisted by Dr. P. F. Mayer of Philadelphia and Dr. C. W. Schaeffer of Germantown. Since 1854, there have been no significant alterations in the church edifice.

In this year the Tanneberger organ was replaced with one made by Henry Knauff of Philadelphia; a competent authority had declared that every dollar spent in repairs on the old organ would be wasted.

May 28 A chime of eight bells plus one of the congregation's old bells was rung for the first time.

1855

February 25 A branch Sunday School with John W. Hubley as superintendent was opened at 21 West James Street. The school flourished from the beginning, then became a mission which continued under the care of Holy Trinity until 1874 when it was organized as a congregation and named "Grace Lutheran Church".

1856

April 4 Dr. Krotel organized the Junior Missionary Society which in the course of years became the Women's Missionary Society.

May 5 The Vestry adopted a design for the corporate seal of the church. It represents an open Bible with the letters V.D.M.A.E. for the Latin "Verbum Domini Manet in Aeternum" meaning "The Word of the Lord Abideth Forever".

1859

May 31 The funeral of The Rev. John Baker, former pastor of Holy Trinity and lastly of St. Luke's, Philadelphia, was held in Holy Trinity. The Rev. Mr. Beates delivered an address in German and Pastor Krotel spoke in English. Interment was in Woodward Hill.

1861

May 6 A chime of seven bells in the Key of F and weighing 7705 pounds was purchased in exchange for the set purchased in 1853.

May 19 On this day marking the one hundredth anniversary of the cornerstone laying of the church, the new chimes were rung for the first time.

The anniversary celebration opened at ten o'clock when the Rev. Dr. C. F. Schaeffer, using Jeremiah 17:12, preached. The afternoon service was given to the Sunday School, with The Rev. Charles A. Baer speaking on Isaiah 11:6. In the evening The Rev. Prof. F. A. Muhlenberg preached on Psalms 48:12, 13. In the long history of Holy Trinity Church, it was the most festive occasion up to that time. The sanctuary was gaily decorated—"the pulpit, windows, galleries, the

organ, filled with flowers and evergreens". Two hymns were written for the anniversary and the singing of these together with the rendition of the hymn sung at the cornerstone laying led the reporter to declare that "all admitted that they had not heard such grand choral singing within the walls of old Trinity for many years".

To preserve the memories of the anniversary day, the "Memorial Volume of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity" was prepared by Pastor Krotel. A hard cover book of one hundred and fifty-four pages, it presents a history of the congregation from 1730 to 1861.

1862

March 10 The Rev. Frederick W. Conrad began a pastorate which continued until February, 1864.

1864

September 4 The Rev. Dr. Samuel Laird preached his initial sermon as pastor. He remained until April, 1867.

1865

April 15 As a mark of sorrow and respect for Abraham Lincoln, the late President of the United States, the Vestry voted to have the church draped in mourning for thirty days.

May 5 The corporate name of the congregation was changed to "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity".

1866

June 10 This date marked another festive occasion in the life of Holy Trinity. It was the centennial of the consecration of the church. The gospel for the day—Luke 14:16-24—provided the text of the anniversary sermon by Dr. C. W. Schaeffer, President of the Ministerium. At the afternoon service the work of the Sunday School was emphasized and addresses were delivered by Prof. F. A. Muhlenberg, Dr. W. A. Passavant and Dr. Krotel. The centennial closed with an evening sermon by a former pastor, Dr. Krotel, New York City. His text was Deuteronomy 32:7.

1867

May 5 This day signaled the beginning of the pastorate of Dr. Emanuel Greenwald, who served for eighteen years.

November A new church body titled "The General Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America" was organized at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania left the General Synod and was one of the constituting synods of the new body. This meant that Holy Trinity was now a congregation in the General Council.

1868

June 21 Another branch Sunday School begun by Trinity reached the stage when the cornerstone of a building was laid. This was known as the Manor Street Mission Sunday School and from it came Christ Lutheran Church.

1876

March 6 Vestry proposed the erection of a new Sunday School Building in the south east corner of Duke and Mifflin Streets, on the area of the cemetery facing Duke Street. Remains of bodies interred there were removed.

July 4 "The centennial of the Nation's birthday was announced by the merry peal of Trinity Chimes played by Kevinski's master hand; and then all the bells of the city joined in one grand peal of joy". John B. Kevinski, one of Lancaster's musical geniuses, was organist of Holy Trinity at this time.

August 13 The cornerstone of the new building for educational purposes was laid at 6 p.m., the Rev. Emanuel Greenwald officiating. The building was officially named the Chapel of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity.

1877

January 6 John Stauffer, a member of the congregation, purchased the old Sunday School Building for \$4000.

1878

February 4 "Old Trinity" was the title given to the parish paper authorized by the Vestry. It was the first congregational paper.

1885

December 24 Trinity's beloved pastor, Emanuel Greenwald, died on the twenty-first instant at the age of seventy-five. Obsequies were held in the sanctuary with many of the leaders of Lutheranism in attendance. Dr. Gottlob Krotel used Acts 11:24 as the text for his sermon. The Rev. Eyster Jacobs opened the service and Dr. Jacob Fry offered a closing prayer. The body of Dr. Greenwald was interred in Woodward Hill.

1886

February 14 The Reverend Charles L. Fry, assistant to the late Dr. Greenwald was elected as pastor. His tenure continued until 1901.

1887

September 11 A new organ, made by the Roosevelt Company, was dedicated. The contract price was \$4000, less \$800 for the old instrument. The installation made necessary the addition of two sections of visible pipes, thus lengthening the facade of the organ case.

December Governor James A. Beaver visited Holy Trinity Church to select a site for a monument to be erected to the memory of Governor Thomas Mifflin. Permission was granted by the Vestry for the placing of the monument, and a site was selected, but subsequent changes by the Commonwealth caused Vestry to rescind its action; the project was not consummated.

1893

August 7 Mr. H. K. Beck was awarded a contract to paint a picture in the apse of the sanctuary; the subject, "The Resurrection".

September 24 Once more, a service of rededication was held after the interior of the church was refrescoed and the woodwork was painted ivory, trimmed with gold. Former pastors Krotel and Laird, Dr. Jacob Fry, and Dr. Spath, Ministerium President, had a part in the services.

1896

January 3 A petition was presented to the Vestry to establish a mission Sunday School in the eastern city. With assistance from members of Holy Trinity, a school was begun at 17 Clark Street on December 12, 1897; and from this developed The Church of the Advent. The first Church Council of Advent was installed in Holy Trinity on November 27, 1898.

1901

February 3 The Rev. Dr. John E. Whitteker was installed as pastor, the charge being delivered by the Rev. Dr. J. W. Hassler, president of The Lancaster Conference and the sermon preached by Dr. Krotel. The pastorate of Dr. Whitteker continued until 1920 when he became president of Chicago Seminary.

1902

November 2 The Rev. F. W. Wackernagle was appointed a missionary to the India field, the first missionary to be supported by Holy Trinity Church.

1903

December 7 Following a suggestion by Dr. Whitteker, Vestry voted to install memorial windows in the sanctuary.

1904

February 1 Permission to place the first memorial window was given to Mrs. Catherine Mathiot in memory of Christopher Hager and family.

1905

June 18 Marking the 175th anniversary of the congregation, a noteworthy celebration was held. Pastor Whitteker prepared a 44 page booklet, giving the history of the congregation. This was the first congregational history prepared since 1861.

September The first number of "The Chronicle", parish paper of Holy Trinity Church, made its appearance.

1907

May 17 Dr. Gottlob Krotel, pastor 1853-1861, died in New York and his body was brought to Lancaster for interment in Woodward Hill.

1910

April 6 The duplex envelope system of receiving church offerings was adopted.

1911

May 18 Marking the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Trinity Church, a notable historical program was carried through. Chief Justice J. Hay Brown of the State Supreme Court, who was a member of the congregation, opened the service with an address, Mayor Frank B. McClain brought congratulations from the city, the Hon. W. U. Hensel delivered a notable discourse, "Trinity and the Town", and Judge William H. Staake of Philadelphia extended congratulations from the church in general. Lancaster's Fourth Regiment Band furnished music. This program was followed on Sunday, May 21, with a religious observance.

September 14 The thirty-third convention of the General Council of the Lutheran Church in America went into session at Holy Trinity Church.

1913

April 7 The name of the parish paper was changed to "The Trinity Lutheran".

1914

November 18 Vestry authorized the installation of a three horsepower electric blower to operate the organ. This was the first introduction of electric power in the church.

1915

October 4 Miss Clara Barley was engaged as a parish worker.

1917

May 6 A flag pole having been erected in front of the church, a flag raising ceremony was conducted by Dr. Whitteker, signifying the loyalty of the congregation and honoring the members of Trinity who were in the nation's service.

November 14 Following preliminary meetings of three Lutheran bodies, the United Lutheran Church in America began its existence when the first convention was held in New York City. This new church brought into one fold The General Council, The General Synod and The United Synod of the South.

1919

January 2 The Rev. Dr. Frederick H. Knubel, President of The United Lutheran Church in America, preached in Holy Trinity.

August 22 A contract was consummated to install electricity in the church. Since 1850 the only source of lighting had been gas.

1920

March 1 Mr. John Fritz, member of the congregation, was given the privilege to organize a troop of Boy Scouts.

1921

February 1 The Rev. Dr. Aden B. MacIntosh of Norristown began a pastorate which was closed by death in 1940.

- April 4 Vestry approved the placing of the National Colors in the sanctuary.
April 17 The first number of the weekly church bulletin appeared.

1922

- May 1 A new organ was authorized to be purchased from the Casavant Company of St. Hyacinthe, Canada, at the cost of \$23,100.
May 23 Plans for a renovation program at a cost of \$20,928 were approved.

1923

- February 4 This was another rich day in the history of Holy Trinity. The church was once more reconsecrated and the new organ, known as the Sprecher Memorial Organ was consecrated. Given by Emily B. and Annie M. Sprecher, the new instrument was in memory of their parents George D. and Caroline B. Sprecher. The address of the day was given by the Rev. Dr. Charles L. Fry, pastor of Trinity from 1881 to 1901.
February 5 Charles M. Courboin, one of the world's great organists and who had a part in designing the Casavant organ, gave a recital in Holy Trinity.
August 10 Memorial services for President Warren G. Harding, who died in office, were held in the sanctuary.

1928

- January 3 Vestry authorized the building of a boiler house, the design of the same to match the architecture of the church. It was subsequently built and housed the heating system which was formerly in the basement of the chapel.

1930

- September 2 A search for the original cornerstone of the church divulged its exact location as being to the left of the main door on Duke Street. The stone was found to be in excellent condition but the contents of the wooden box had been destroyed by insects. After photographing the stone, it was returned to its place, which is roughly marked by a stone in the wall of the church, bearing the inscription "Johanes Eppe 1761".
October 26 Holy Trinity celebrated the bicentennial of the founding of the congregation. A week of services included addresses by Dr. Pfatteicher, President of the Ministerium, Dr. A. R. Wentz, Judge William H. Keller and Dr. George W. Richards.

1934

- November 5 The members of the choir wore vestments for the first time.

1936

- August 4 With the Rev. Dr. E. P. Pfatteicher as the preacher, a week of services celebrating the 175th anniversary of the cornerstone laying began. In an impressive ceremony, the incident of the original cornerstone laying was re-enacted, with the choirs singing in German the hymn used in 1761.

1939

May 1 Action was taken to raze the buildings at 35-37 South Duke Street which were the sexton's home and the parsonage.

1940

April 20 The obsequies of Pastor Aden B. MacIntosh, who died on the 16th of the month, were held in the sanctuary. Interment took place at Spring City.

October 7 The former home of Judge Eugene Smith at 43 N. Lime Street was purchased as a parsonage.

November 22 The Rev. Dr. Henry H. Bagger accepted a call to the pastorate and remained until elected as President of Mount Airy Seminary in June 1952.

1941

April 7 Vestry passed a resolution to open the church on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. for "rest and prayer".

1942

March 7 "Lutheran World Action" was introduced when the first appeal was made and the congregation was asked to contribute \$800 to \$1000.

1945

August 6 By a vote of 685 to 31, pew rents were abolished.

1946

November 11 Approval was given for the installation of the last memorial window, which appropriately was a memorial to the late pastor, Dr. John E. Whitteker, who originally suggested memorial windows.

1948

August Looking toward the possibility of removing all stones and earthly remains in the cemetery, and the building of a new parish house, a survey was made which indicated 499 miscellaneous stones in the cemetery, of which 181 were worthy of preservation.

October 1 Due to the deterioration of the four wooden figures at the base of the steeple, Vestry ordered their removal, the same to be replaced with exact duplicates.

December 1 By a majority vote, the congregation moved to take up the stones and bodily remains from the cemetery.

1949

January 3 Vestry ordered the carving of new wooden figures of the Evangelists and their placement at the base of the steeple at a cost of \$3200.

April 18 to November 17 All stones and earthly remains of deceased persons were removed from the cemetery. A number of the stones were deposited in the Landis Valley Museum, several dozen were placed permanently in the Memorial Wall (1954), and some were buried in the ground around the outer wall of the parish house. The remains were reinterred in the memorial plot.

1950

October 22 The Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America, preached at a service which marked the completion of the program of church renovation.

1952

June Doctor Bagger completed an eleven and a half year ministry in Trinity, having resigned in May to accept the presidency of the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia.

July 31 The Reverend Wallace E. Fisher, pastor of Christ (College) Church, Gettysburg, accepted the call to the pastorate of Holy Trinity.

November 5-12 The \$150,000 appeal to be added to the \$300,000 fund for the parish house was launched, Mr. Willis W. Shenk, chairman.

1953

January 18 The Rev. Wallace E. Fisher was installed as pastor by the Rev. Dr. E. E. Fischer, president of the Pennsylvania Ministerium, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Dwight F. Putman, president of the Central Pennsylvania Synod.

February 2 Vestry authorized Harold Wagoner, Philadelphia architect, to proceed with new plans for the parish house.

February 20 The Friday Noonday services were inaugurated for the Lenten season. Attendances grew over the years from 40 to 225. Since 1960, these services are held weekly, September to June.

May 4 Space was rented at 45 S. Duke Street for temporary church offices and similar arrangements were made with the YWCA for the Sunday Church School. Auxiliaries met freely in Zion Lutheran and St. James' Episcopal Churches.

July The Church School Association voted unit support for a missionary. Across the years this temper of mind spread until 1961 when Trinity was sharing in the support of thirteen foreign missionaries and six home missionaries.

July The women's organizations voted for federation; the United Lutheran Church Women was established.

August The old "Chapel" was razed. D. S. Warfel Associates were awarded the contract to construct the parish house.

September 6 The Congregation authorized the Vestry to sell the Lime Street parsonage. By October, another parsonage had been purchased at 930 Marietta Avenue.

September 13 The ground breaking service for the parish house was conducted.



“Upon This Rock I Will Build My Church”

1954

January 10 The cornerstone for the parish house was placed.

February 21 The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity transferred its affiliation from the Pennsylvania Ministerium to the Central Pennsylvania Synod, in cooperation with the policy of realignment between the two synods. Thus a tie with the historic past was broken as Holy Trinity was one of the congregations which had been in the Ministerium since its inception in 1748.

1955

January 2 The new parish house was completed and dedicated. The Rev. Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, secretary of the United Lutheran Church in America, gave the dedicatory sermon. Eventual costs on the parish house, furnishings, parking lot, memorial wall and landscaping approximates a half million dollars. By 1961 the facilities were so overtaxed on Sunday mornings that the New Members' Class had to convene in the church between services.

January Mrs. George Fritsch came to the Staff as financial secretary.

October The Vesper Service was renewed after a lapse of three years, providing at that time three stated worship services each Sunday.

November 13 The Service of Pledging as an act of worship was incorporated into the Sunday services. The practice has become an effective part of the congregation's life.

1956

January 19 Ruth Grigg Horting, Trinity's Church School superintendent since 1943, was appointed to Governor Leader's Cabinet (Pennsylvania) and subsequently reappointed to Governor Lawrence's Cabinet.

September The Seventy were absorbed into a more precise pattern of congregational evangelism, identified locally as the District Plan, directed by Vestrymen C. Raymond Bolbach and Fred R. Huehnergarth.

October Pastor Fisher was elected to a six year term on the Board of Foreign Missions, ULCA.

1957

January 6 The Staff was enlarged by the addition of another full-time secretary (presently Mrs. A. W. Seitz). Mrs. Mildred A. Flowers became personal secretary to Pastor Fisher.

January 6 Additional parking facilities were gained for Sundays on the Sachs' and Tort lots adjoining Trinity's lot.

May The revision of Trinity's historic constitution written by Henry M. Muhlenberg in 1769, was authorized by the Vestry. Three years of careful work by a score of Vestrymen preserved the historic character of the document, and all amendments were endorsed by the congregation early in 1960.

June The Sunday Church School constitution was revised in conformity with Scripture, the Augsburg Confession and to recognize the fundamental authority of the Vestry over Church School policies and practices.

September 15 The beautiful, utilitarian six page bulletin currently in use was inaugurated. Vestryman William D. Andes, Sr., provided the striking art work and lay-out.

September 22 Sister Evelyn Houlroyd was installed as Director of Christian Education in Trinity Church. She served until September, 1959, when she took up her work on the Staff, Board of American Missions.

October 1 Mr. R. Ray Head joined Trinity's Staff as Business Manager.

October 6 In response to the growing attendance at Matins (8:45 A.M.), the Music Department inaugurated the Matins Choir.

October 13 The Sacrament of Infant Baptism, administered for years on Sunday afternoons at 3 o'clock, became an integral part of the Matins, each second Sunday of every month.

December The Scholarship Fund was established to aid able young people in Trinity to attend college.

1958

January-July Fourteen "open houses" were held at the parsonage.

February 4 The Children's Church was inaugurated for children up to six years of age.

March 2 Weekly radio broadcasts from the church were inaugurated. The listening audience grew from 16,000 to 50,000 until the service was discontinued in the summer of 1959, on the request of Pastor Fisher because the counseling center was swamped in a six month period with 1045 requests beyond the 700 annual appointments and the normal pastoral work of the parish was being pressed into a secondary place.

April 27 The new Service Book and Hymnal was placed in regular congregational use.

June 9 The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on Pastor Fisher by Gettysburg College. A congregational reception honored the pastor and his family that same evening.

1959

January A "blood bank" was established informally under the direction of Vestryman C. Raymond Bolbach.

February The Vestry authorized unit support for seven foreign missionaries and five home missionaries, reflecting the mounting congregational response to benevolence.

April 26 The congregation voted overwhelmingly (two score negative votes) to sell the parsonage and provide rentals for all ordained clergy in Trinity Church.

October 1 Pastor Evelan became associate pastor. Mr. Virgil E. Cooper, Jr. began his work as full-time organist and choir-master in Trinity.

November The United Lutheran Church Men was established.

December 24 Two Christmas Eve services were inaugurated.

December 28 Trinity's long-awaited Boy Scout Troop got underway.

1960

January Homemaker Service was established for Trinity's needy members.

January Pastor Evelan elected president, Board of Directors, Lutheran Service.

April 1 The Rev. Earl W. Feight, Jr., began his work as second associate pastor in Trinity.

May 8 The congregation's response to the \$3000 LWA quota was \$5000.

June 12 Vestrymen began to share with the three clergy in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

September 18 Mrs. Abraham E. Stauffer accepted the position of Homemaker.

September 21 Doctor Fisher conducted an open meeting for the congregation and community in a packed Fondersmith Auditorium on "A Man's Religion and

the Presidency", reflecting the implications of the First Amendment. The Vestry, on motion of its Social Action Committee, endorsed unanimously the Pastor's stand. Extensive newspaper coverage revealed Trinity speaking relevantly in a confused socio-political situation.

October 9 The weekly administration of the Lord's Supper was inaugurated—8 A.M., Rengier Chapel.

October 27 The Seventy and the District Plan of Evangelism were absorbed by the Undershepherding Plan—140 dedicated persons engaged as assistant pastors in Trinity; chairman, Mr. Charles D. Flowers.

October 28 The Friday Noon services were inaugurated on a weekly basis. Presently, Trinity has six weekly services of worship to meet the multiple needs of her people: Wednesdays, 8:30 A.M.; Fridays, 12:25–12:50 P.M.; Sundays, 8, 8:45 and 11 A.M. and 6:15 P.M.

1961

January 9 The congregation claimed three more foreign missionaries; presently, thirteen!

January 22 The special committee for the 200th Anniversary of the Cornerstone Laying completed its plans for the celebration and authorized this booklet.

March 13 The Vestry authorized the replacement of the thirty-eight year old Casavant organ with a four manual Moller organ at a cost not to exceed \$80,000, the appeal to be launched the Sunday after the 200th anniversary service.

14 MAY, 1961

The 200th Anniversary, 1761–1961

Morning—The Rev. Dr. Charles Muhlenberg Cooper, president, Pennsylvania Ministerium and president-elect, Pacific Lutheran Seminary, preaching.

Afternoon—The Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president ULCA; president, LWF; chairman, central committee, World Council of Churches, preaching.

—George L. Heiges, chronicler

March, 1961

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity

IN THE CITY OF
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Trinity Church is the spiritual heir of two and one quarter centuries of Christian witness in the oldest inland city in America, Lancaster. Originating a half century before the Declaration of Independence, the congregation is the oldest in Lancaster and one of the oldest in Pennsylvania. The beautiful sanctuary stands today as one of America's front-line colonial churches, historically and architecturally. Humbly grateful for its distinguished place in American History, Trinity prefers to stress Christ's ministry to the contemporary needs of the modern city, His atoning power in this atomic age. Trinity, therefore, is a living Church with the clear recollection of God's goodness in yesteryear and the hearty expectation of His great blessings in the present.

Congregation organized, 1730

Present Church built, 1761-66

Present Parish House built, 1953-1955



THE CHURCH STAFF

THE REV. WALLACE E. FISHER, D.D., Pastor
THE REV. R. RAY EVELAN, Associate
THE REV. EARL W. FEIGHT, JR., Associate
E. VIRGIL COOPER, JR., Organist-Choirmaster
R. RAY HEAD, Business Manager

Mildred A. Flowers, Doctor Fisher's Secretary
Verna E. Seitz, Office Secretary
Gladys G. Fritsch, Financial Secretary
Andrew H. Vogel III, Chimney

Viva S. Stauffer, Homemaker
Elmer B. Yost, Sexton
Fanny O. Yost, Housekeeper
J. Herbert Graybill, Assistant Sexton

Church Office Hours — 8:30 A.M.-5 P.M., Daily Except Saturday Afternoons

Doctor Fisher's Office Hours — 8:30 A.M.-3 P.M. Daily Except Thursdays

(Counseling appointments: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays)

Pastor Evelan's Hours — 8:30 A.M.-12, Daily Except Tuesdays

Pastor Feight's Hours — 8:30 A.M.-12, Daily Except Mondays

Phones—Church Office: EX 7-2734

Dr. Fisher's Office: EX 7-5041

Sexton: EX 4-8117

FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

The Rev. David Hoh, Japan
The Rev. Rodger Singer, Hong Kong
The Rev. John Nelson, Malaya
Mr. Steven Kolumban, India
Miss Margaret Miller, Liberia
Mr. Roland Hansen, Hong Kong
Mr. Seth Bansa, Ghana missionary.

The Rev. Leslie Hefty, Argentina
The Rev. Franklin Keller, Liberia
The Rev. Arthur Henne, British Guiana
The Rev. Frederick G. Lueders, India
The Rev. Charles G. Ronkos, Uruguay
The Rev. Jose Rodriguez, Argentina
The Rev. Jose Rodriguez, Argentina

HOME MISSIONARIES

The Rev. John F. Byerly, Jr., Williamsburg, Va.
The Rev. Walter Frey, Alamogordo, N. M.
The Rev. William Slee, College, Alaska

The Rev. Paul Hamsher, Birmingham, Ala.
The Rev. Raymond L. Stiffler, Pinole, Calif.
The Rev. Harold Sandy, Lancaster, Pa.

THE VESTRY

OFFICERS President, Doctor Fisher
Vice Pres., Willis W. Shenk

TRUSTEES Mr. C. Raymond Bolbach
Mr. William D. Andes
Ralph M. Barley, Esq.
Mr. John B. Byers
Mr. Edwin W. Cook, Jr.
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Treasurer, H. R. Siegler

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Mr. Richard F. Kuntz
Mr. Harry K. Lane

Mr. Willis W. Shenk
Mr. Albert F. Mattison
Paul A. Mueller, Jr., Esq.
Mr. Christian M. Neff
Mr. Harry R. Siegler
Mr. Gilbert W. Vatter
Robert H. Witmer, M.D.

AUXILIARIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL, Mrs. John F. Horting
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH MEN, Mr. Abraham E. Stauffer
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN, Mrs. Merle V. Hoover
INTERMEDIATE LUTHER LEAGUE, Miss Ruth Hoover
SENIOR LUTHER LEAGUE, Miss Brenda Broome
KING'S DAUGHTERS, Mrs. George V. Fritsch
CHORISTERS, Mr. H. Clair Garman

Parking facilities are available, without charge, during all Sunday Worship Services on our lot adjoining the Parish House and the Henry Tort lot directly opposite our own.

(The above is an exact reproduction from the back of Trinity's Weekly Bulletin.)



“To walk together to the Kirk,
And all together pray,
While each to his great Father bends,
Old men, and babes and loving friends,
And youths and maidens gay!”

S. T. Coleridge

